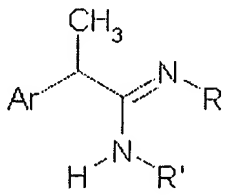
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) Amidines of formula (I)



(I)

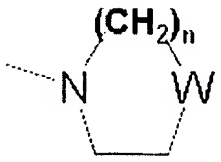
and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof,

wherein Ar is selected from:

3'-benzoylphenyl, 3'-(4-chloro-benzoyl)-phenyl, 3'-(4-methyl-benzoyl)-phenyl, 3'-acetyl-phenyl, 3'-propionyl-phenyl, 3'-isobutanoyl-phenyl, 4'-trifluoromethanesulfonyloxy-phenyl, 4'-benzenesulfonyloxy-phenyl, 4'-trifluoromethanesulfonylamino-phenyl, 4'- benzenesulfonylamino-phenyl, 4'-benzenesulfonylmethyl-phenyl, 4'-acetoxyphenyl, 4'- propionyloxy-phenyl, 4'-benzoyloxy-phenyl, 4'acetylamino-phenyl, 4'propionylamino-phenyl, 4'-benzoylamino-phenyl;

R' is selected from

- H, C_1-C_5-alkyl, phenyl, C_1-C_5-phenyalkyl, C_1-C_5-cycloalkyl, C_1-C_5-alkenyl, C_1-C_5-alkoxy;
- a residue of formula $-(CH_2)n$-NRaRb wherein n is an integer from 0 to 5 and each Ra and Rb, which may be the same or different, are C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_6-alkenyl or, alternatively, Ra and Rb, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a heterocycle from 3 to 7 members of formula (II),

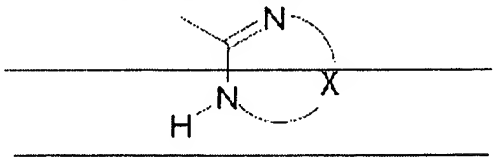


(II)

wherein W represents a single bond, O, S, N-Rc, Rc being H, C_1-C_6-alkyl or C_1-C_6-alkylphenyl.

R is H, CH_3, CH_2CH_3,

~~R and R' can alternatively, form a heterocycle from 5 to 7 members of formula (III),~~



~~(III)~~

~~wherein X represents a residue $-O(CH_2)n-$ wherein n is an integer from 1 to 3, or a residue $-(CH_2)n-$ wherein n is an integer from 2 to 4, or the ethylene residue $-CH=CH-$.~~

2.-11. (canceled)

12.-13. (canceled)

14. (Currently amended) The compound according to ~~Claim 12~~Claim 1, wherein R' is selected from

- hydrogen
- a residue of formula $-(CH_2)_n$-NRaRb, wherein n is an integer 2 or 3 and the group NRaRb is selected from N,N-dimethylamine or 1-piperidyl, and R is H, ~~or R and R' form a heterocycle of formula (III), where X represents a residue $-O(CH_2)n-$ wherein n is the integer 1 or 2, or a residue $-(CH_2)_2-$.~~

15. (currently amended) The compound according to ~~Claim 12~~ Claim 1 selected from:

(+) (2-(4-isobutylphenyl)propionamidine hydrochloride

(-) (2-(4-isobutylphenyl)propionamidine hydrochloride

(R,S) 2-(3-benzoylphenyl)propionamidine hydrochloride

(R,S) 2-[(3-fluoro-4-phenyl)phenyl]propionamidine hydrochloride

(R,S) 2-(4-trifluoromethanesulfonyloxyphenyl)propionamidine hydrochloride

(R,S) 2-(5-benzoyl-2-thiophene)propionamidine hydrochloride

(R,S) 2-(4-isobutylphenyl)-N-[3"-(N'-piperidino)propyl]propionamidine dihydrochloride

(R,S) 2-(4-isobutylphenyl)-N-methyl-propionamidine hydrochloride

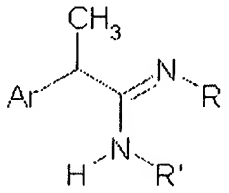
(R,S) 2-(3-benzoylphenyl)- N-[3-(N,N-dimethylamino)propyl]propionamidine hydrochloride

(R,S) 2-(4-isobutylphenyl)propionamidine acetate salt

(R,S) 2-(4-isobutylphenyl)-N-[3-(N,N-dimethylamino)propyl] propionamidine, and

(R,S) 2-(4-isobutylphenyl)-N-benzyl propionamidine.

16. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (I)



(I)

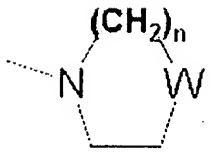
and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof,

wherein Ar is selected from:

3'-benzoylphenyl, 3'-(4-chloro-benzoyl)-phenyl, 3'-(4-methyl-benzoyl)-phenyl, 3'-acetyl-phenyl, 3'-propionyl-phenyl, 3'-isobutanoyl-phenyl, 4'-trifluoromethanesulfonyloxy-phenyl, 4'-benzenesulfonyloxy-phenyl, 4'-trifluoromethanesulfonylamino-phenyl, 4'- benzenesulfonylamino-phenyl, 4'-benzenesulfonylmethyl-phenyl, 4'-acetoxyphenyl, 4'- propionyloxy-phenyl, 4'-benzoyloxy-phenyl, 4'acetylamino-phenyl, 4'propionylamino-phenyl, 4'-benzoylamino-phenyl;

R' is selected from

- H, C_1-C_5-alkyl, phenyl, C_1-C_5-phenyalkyl, C_1-C_5-cycloalkyl, C_1-C_5-alkenyl, C_1-C_5-alkoxy;
- a residue of formula $-(CH_2)$n-NRaRb wherein n is an integer from 0 to 5 and each Ra and Rb, which may be the same or different, are C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_6-alkenyl or, alternatively, Ra and Rb, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a heterocycle from 3 to 7 members of formula (II),

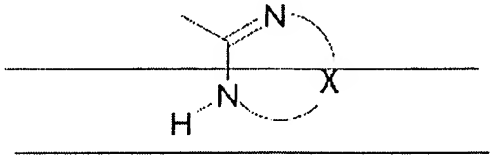


(II)

wherein W represents a single bond, O, S, N-Rc, Rc being H, C_1-C_6-alkyl or C_1-C_6-alkylphenyl,

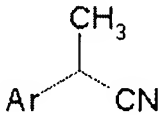
R is H, CH_3, CH_2CH_3;

~~R and R' can alternatively, form a heterocycle from 5 to 7 members of formula (III),~~



~~(III)~~

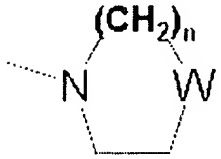
~~wherein X represents a residue $-O(CH_2)n-$ wherein n is an integer from 1 to 3, or a residue $-(CH_2)n-$ wherein n is an integer from 2 to 4, or the ethylene residue $-CH=CH-$;~~ comprising reacting a nitrile derivative of formula (IV),



(IV)

wherein Ar is a phenyl group non-substituted or substituted by one or more groups independently selected from halogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy, hydroxy, C_1-C_4-acyloxy, phenoxy, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_4-acylamino, halogen-C_1-C_3-alkyl, halogen C_1-C_3-alkoxy, benzoyl or a substituted or unsubstituted 5-6 membered heteroaryl ring selected

from pyridine, pyrrole, thiophene, furane, and indole, with an amine of formula NHR, wherein R is selected from the group consisting of: - H, C_1-C_5-alkyl, phenyl, C_1-C_5-phenyalkyl, C_1-C_5-cycloalkyl, C_1-C_5-alkenyl, C_1-C_5-alkoxy; and residues of formula –(CH_2)n-NRaRb, wherein n is an integer from 1 to 5 and Ra and Rb are independently C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_6-alkenyl or Ra and Rb, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a heterocycle from 3 to 7 members of formula (II),



(II)

wherein W represents a single bond, O, S, N-Rc, Rc being H, C_1-C_6-alkyl or C_1-C_6-alkylphenyl.

17. (Currently amended) Pharmaceutical compositions comprising a compound according to claim 1 ~~or 12~~ in admixture with a suitable carrier thereof.

18. (Currently amended) A method for treatment of psoriasis, ulcerative colitis, melanoma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), bullous pemphigo, rheumatoid arthritis, idiopathic fibrosis, glomerulonephritis, or for the ~~prevention and~~ treatment of damage caused by ischemia and reperfusion comprising administering the composition of claim 17 to a patient in need thereof.

19. (Currently amended) A method for inhibiting in vitro IL-8-induced chemotaxis of human polymorphonuclear cells, comprising contacting said cells with a compound of claim 1 ~~or 12~~.